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C1

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus engageable with a hand brake assembly for automatically applying at least one brake means secured to a railway vehicle with said hand brake assembly, said apparatus comprising:

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(a) an operating means having at least one gear, said at least one gear being engageable with at least one gear of a gear assembly disposed in a housing member of said hand brake assembly for operating said gear assembly in a direction which will cause an application of said at least one brake means;

(b) a source of fluid pressure connected to said operating means for periodically supplying a predetermined pressure to said operating means at least sufficient to cause such application of said at least one brake means; and

(c) a means connected to said source of fluid pressure for initiating a supply of said predetermined pressure to said operating means thereby causing an automatic application of said at least one brake means by said hand brake assembly.